

Germans Drive British Back 12 Miles; Paris Is Strangely Shelled by Big Guns

Hope of Victory Lies in America

The Fate of Human Rights Depends on How Swiftly She Can Make Her Strength Effective Against An Enemy Who Now Is Winning

How the Germans Have Anticipated This Country's Widely Over-Advised Aircraft Programme—France Beginning to Understand Her American "Associate"—The Ordeal Yet to Come

By Caspar Whitney
Special Correspondent of The New York Tribune in Europe
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Paris, March 20.

FIRST I shall try to give you a feeling of the will and spirit of France.

The will is articulated by Premier Clemenceau in the immortal words: "We shall carry it on to the last quarter of an hour. We are going to win in that last quarter of an hour."

The spirit is to see and to feel. I sensed it in the recent night raids upon Paris by the Boche aeroplanes.

Three Sons

During the raid of Friday night, while I stood in a darkened street under a porte cochere, the concierge whose peace sentiments I sounded replied: "Monsieur, I have three sons at the front, and I would rather lose them all than to have peace now, which would be a German peace and mean only that we should have this terrible time over again some day."

We were finishing dinner when Monday's raid came, and as the guns began mine host remarked: "The kind Boche will furnish the dessert."

At least one theatre having its own lighting system (for all public lighting is shut off after the alarm which precedes aerial bombardment) carried out its programme to the end during the raid. To my personal knowledge actors have sometimes waited for a bomb to crash to get their lines before the footlights, and not half a dozen of the audience left before the conclusion of the performance. Such is the spirit of France among the people. Among the poets it is magnificent, as the world well knows.

As in London, the effect of these attacks is to deepen the loathing—if that is possible—for the Hun, and to strengthen a grim determination to beat him.

Americans In

Next I shall try to give you a sense of the situation as it looks from the viewpoint of American participation.

Our boys over here are all right. They will do their part. They will "carry on."

Already they are making good with such opportunities as they get.

See that you at home back them up. Nothing is more important now than completing the promised aeroplane fleet, which lags behind, while Germany, accepting our impossibly large and, unhappily, widely advertised programme, has speeded her actual production to a truly formidable extent, with planes carrying twin motors of 200 horsepower each.

We gave Germany the tip, and it remains to be seen if we shall make good in this tremendously important department of fighting.

Stout hearts are needed at this hour.

Continued

REVOLUTION in Germany is "verboten" for the duration of the war. It is therefore impossible. German Socialists at heart are monarchists. Read Wm. C. Dreher's article on page 11.

Hoover Asks Use of Wheat Be Cut in Half By Germans

New Regulations Called "Military Necessity"; Farmers Warned Not to Hoard

[Staff Correspondence]
WASHINGTON, March 23.—Herbert C. Hoover to-day asked the American people to reduce their wheat flour consumption 50 per cent until the next harvest, in order that an available surplus may be created to meet the demands of our army and the peoples of Allied countries. In addition to the more stringent voluntary conservation rules, the food administration increased to 25 per cent the quantity of substitutes to be used in commercial baking operations.

The revised wheat flour regulations issued to-day were characterized by the food administration as "a military necessity." They will reduce the monthly consumption of wheat flour in the United States from 42,000,000 bushels to 21,000,000 bushels.

The food administration's statement follows: "If we are to furnish the Allies with the necessary proportion of wheat to maintain their war bread from now until the next harvest, and this is a military necessity, we must reduce our monthly consumption to 21,000,000 bushels a month, as against our normal consumption of about 42,000,000 bushels, or 50 per cent of our normal consumption."

"Reserving a margin for distribution to the army and for special cases, leaves for general consumption approximately 1 1/2 pounds of wheat products weekly per person. Many of our consumers are dependent upon bakers' bread. Wheat bread must be durable and therefore requires a larger proportion of wheat products than cereal breads baked in the household. Our army and navy require a full allowance."

Sacrifices Required
The well-to-do in our population can make greater sacrifices in the consumption of wheat products than can the poor. In addition, our population in the agricultural districts where other cereals are abundant, are more skilled in the preparation of breads from these other cereals than the crowded city and industrial populations.

"With improved transportation conditions we now have available a surplus of wheat. We also have in addition to the surplus of wheat, we have ample corn and oats for human consumption. The grain on rye and barley as substitutes has already greatly exhausted the supply of these grains."

"To effect the needed saving of wheat, we are wholly dependent upon the voluntary assistance of the American people and we ask that the following rules shall be observed: "Households to use not to exceed a total of 1 1/2 pounds per week of wheat products, containing a total of not more than 1 1/2 pounds of wheat bread, containing the required percentage of substitutes and one-half pound of wheat products, such as crackers, pastry, pies, cakes, wheat breakfast cereals, all combined."

Restaurant Restrictions
"Public eating places and clubs to observe two wheatless days per week, Monday and Wednesday, as at present. In addition, therefore, not to serve to any one guest at any one meal, an aggregate of breadstuffs, macaroni, crackers, pastry, pies, cakes, wheat breakfast cereals, all combined."

"Retailers to sell not more than one-eighth of a barrel of flour to any one customer at any one time and not more than one-quarter of a barrel to any country customer at any one time, and to sell wheat products for sale only on the sale of an equal weight of other cereals."

"We ask the bakers and grocers to reduce the volume of 'Victory' bread sold by delivery of the three-quarter pound loaf where one pound was sold before, and corresponding proportions in other weights. We also ask bakers not to increase the amount of their wheat flour purchases beyond 70 per cent of the average monthly amount purchased in the four months prior to March 1."

"Manufacturers using wheat products for non-food purposes should cease such use entirely."

"There is no limit upon the use of other cereal flours and meals, corn, barley, buckwheat, potato flour, etc., to make the wheat exports that are absolutely demanded of us to maintain the civil population and soldiers of the Allies and our own army we propose to supplement the voluntary cooperation of the public by a further limitation of distribution, and we shall place at once restrictions on distribution which will be adjusted from time to time to secure as nearly equitable distribution as possible. With the arrival of harvest we should be able to relax such restrictions; until then we ask for the necessary patience, sacrifice and cooperation of the distributing trades."

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA., March 23.—(By Associated Press.) Wonderful curative waters. N. Y. Office, The Plaza.

Continued

Heavy Firing Follows Aero Raid on Paris

Guns Located 74 Miles Away, Is One Report From France

Rifled Shells Puzzle Experts

Attack the First Daylight Air Raid on French Capital

The bombardment of Paris by a German long-range gun an incredible distance away suddenly developed yesterday as the greatest mystery of the war.

The first news came in a brief dispatch from Paris shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday carrying an official statement that Paris had been bombed by the Germans. As the shortest distance from the German front to the French capital is about sixty-two miles—over twice as far as the greatest gun range ever known before—the statement was received here with amazement and in Washington with skepticism.

Later dispatches stated that the missiles were 9-inch shells, rifled by propulsion from a cannon. Cabled details of the daylight air raids over Paris yesterday suggested that the shells might have been shot from cannon mounted on giant airplanes flying across the city at regular intervals. Additions to the news of the air raids, however, made it clear that the long-range bombardment was continuing simultaneously.

Finally, to intensify the mystery, a dispatch was received from Paris late last night affirming that the astonishing German gun had been located 74 1/2 miles from the city and about a dozen miles beyond the French battlefield.

Guns 74 1-2 Miles Away, the Latest Report in Paris

PARIS, March 23.—According to the latest reports the long distance cannon which bombarded Paris this afternoon was firing from a distance of 120 kilometres (approximately 74 1/2 miles) and was located about twelve kilometres behind the French front.

PARIS, March 23.—The first daylight air raid on Paris came to-day, which was one of perfect sunshine. The people of Paris refused to immerse themselves in cellars and other subterranean shelters, and although the subway stations were crowded, the streets always had a great number of people in them watching for an aerial battle or some other stirring incident.

As the day passed and the "all clear" signal was not given, the feeling grew that something new in the way of a raid was expected, and this was not explained until an official statement was issued, saying that the delay was due to the bombardment by long-distance cannon.

The "all clear" was then sounded, and the normal life was resumed. The cable office reopened to take up accumulated piles of dispatches.

Pieces of the shells, on examination, were found to bear rifling marks, which proved that they had not been dropped, but had been fired from a gun. This apparently left a greater mystery than ever as to where the gun in question was located, the nature of it and by what method it was being operated.

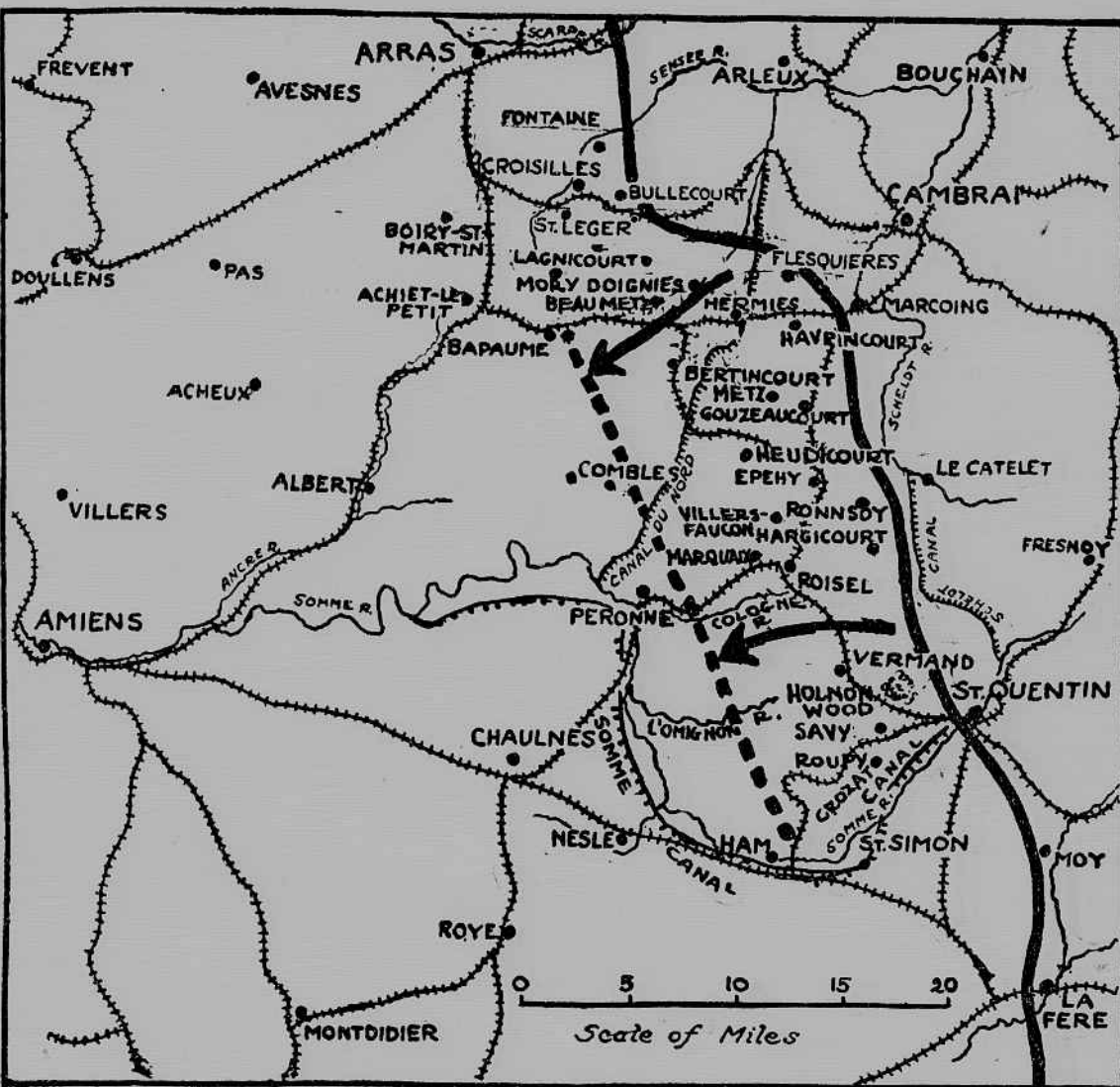
Another thing which turned the thoughts of the officials at the municipal laboratory to the possibility that a cannon was being used was the regularity with which the bombs fell, one every twenty minutes.

After the aerial battle most of those who had taken refuge in cellars, hearing no sound after half an hour's stay, very few taking advantage of the administration's permission to seek refuge if they wished. Tramways and auto buses stopped on the streets and the conductors and ticket collectors sought the nearest shelter. The

Children Marched to Shelter
School children were marched to shelters after half an hour's stay. Many restaurants were closed, but large stores, which had just finished arranging their windows, lowered their shutters and sent their employees into the cellars.

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WHERE BRITISH ARE RETIRING TO NEW DEFENSE SYSTEM



The heavy line shows the front when the offensive began, the broken line the new front defined by Berlin as "northeast of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham." The Germans also seem to have crossed the Somme River and canal near Ham and to have taken this village. Further south forces crossed the Crozat Canal and pushed west, Berlin stated.

To the north the British line Saturday morning ran roughly through St. Leger, Morchies, Beaumont, Hermies and Havincourt in the direction of Rysel. The troops on the northern half of the battlefield were obliged to fall back conformably to the retirement further south. A most obstinate struggle took place at Morcy, which changed hands several times.

Foe Launches Drive Is Final Capital, on Gas Attack on Effort, German American Line Press Declares Tide of Battle

Town Northwest of Toul Is Bombarded at Night
Kaiser Will Win If He Holds on a Short Time, They Say

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 23.—The American guns retaliated heavily against the Germans, who again last night dropped more than 600 mustard gas shells into a certain town within the American lines. There was no wind and the gas remained for hours. The American artillery work was very accurate.

The Germans launched a heavy gas attack against a certain town in our lines northwest of Toul last night. No wind was blowing, and the fumes of mustard gas from the shells hung low over the lines for several hours. The batteries firing the shells were located to the right of Richecourt, and our artillery was busy all morning with a retaliatory shelling.

The town shelled in the gas attack contained a certain number of Americans. Our artillery to-day dropped a number of large shells into Joli Wood, and after firing a few minutes made direct hits on the target, causing a tremendous explosion, followed by dense columns of smoke as a big enemy munitions dump blew up. The first explosion was followed by two others less severe. Our shells also made direct hits in the enemy's first and third line trenches.

The Germans again have received an example of the accuracy of the fire of our 37-millimetre guns. An enemy machine gun emplacement which has been annoying the Americans for the last two days was located, and then the battery of "little fellows," as they are known along the front, got into action, firing rapidly. They made a number of direct hits and put the emplacement gun's crew out of commission.

These small guns, which are about the size of a one-pounder, are easily moved from place to place even in the trenches. They also made direct hits on the junction of communication trenches as men were passing and into the entrance of the dugout which the enemy were seen to enter and from which smoke was issuing. None of the enemy was seen to come out.

Intermittent artillery duels had been in progress all to-day, both on our Toul front and in the Luneville sector, where American troops are in training. Three of our patrols reached the enemy's line early this morning, but in the brilliant moonlight they were discovered and were driven out by brisk machine gun and automatic rifle fire.

Our infantry discovered one enemy patrol inside our wire. These Germans were driven off and it is believed they suffered casualties. There was increased aerial activity to-day. The weather was warm and it was generally clear except for a haze which obscured visibility above the low ground. One machine with an American observer at its gun emptied a stream of bullets into a German airplane, which was observed descending rapidly, as though in trouble, behind our lines.

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Foe Captures 25,000 Men, 400 Cannon

"Considerable Part of the British Army Beaten," Says Berlin

Advance in Masses, Ignoring Losses

Kaiser and Hindenburg Directing Drive From Spa, Belgium

A retreat by the British armies to the Somme appears to be in progress over a large part of the front attacked by the Germans. London last night was non-committal, except to report tremendous fighting and withdrawals in some sectors.

Berlin declares that the Kaiser's troops are drawing near Bapaume and Peronne and are advancing everywhere from south of the Scarpe to below La Fere. Berlin officially announced yesterday that 25,000 prisoners, 400 guns and 300 machine guns had been taken.

Field Marshal Haig reported his defensive positions had been pierced west of St. Quentin, but the British were falling back in good order to prepared positions in the rear. Haig in his second statement yesterday evening said the British were heavily engaged with the enemy in new positions south and west of St. Quentin. Further north, he said, the enemy had attacked with the "utmost determination and regardless of losses," but the British had maintained their positions on the greater part of this front.

The enemy seems to have gained about twelve miles from the former front at the point of maximum penetration.

The German official statement put the present line "northeast of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham." A dispatch from British headquarters said the Germans had crossed the Somme Canal in the vicinity of Ham and assaulted the British entrenched on the other side. Cavalry was seen riding in the rear of the German infantry.

The German success was won at an enormous cost, all dispatches from the front agree. British artillery and machine guns fired almost point blank into dense masses of infantry.

Londoners climbed to the housetops to-night and distinctly heard the throbbing of the unprecedented bombardment.

From Bapaume to Ham, given by the Germans as the limits of their new front, is a stretch of about twenty-eight miles in a direct line. Ham seems to have been captured.

The drive is nominally directed by the Kaiser himself. The two direct subordinate leaders are the German Crown Prince and Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

Hills Gray With Dead as Germans Attack in Open

By William Philip Simms
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, March 23.—Fighting is steadily growing in intensity as the world's greatest battle develops.

All night, under the stars and brilliant moon; all day, under the spring-like sun, Hindenburg's legions hurled themselves against the valiant British, whose withdrawal continues in perfect order, despite the most frenzied efforts to break their line.

German and Bavarian stormtroops (storm troops), sandwiched between divisions of Prussian guards and grenadiers, flung with Hohenzollern fury along roads and across open, sunlit fields, regardless of losses.

The slopes of the hills, from Arras to La Fere, are gray with dead.

Train Guns on Masses
Call after call was sent to the British artillery to train all guns on the Ger-

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